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(54) Title: TROPOELASTIN DERIVATIVES

(57) Abstract

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The invention relates to derivatives of tropoelastin and variants of those derivatives. The invention further provides expression products and hybrid molecules of the derivatives and variants of the invention. The invention further provides methods for the production of the derivatives, variants, expression products and hybrid molecules. Further provided are formulations, cross-linked structures and implants comprising the derivatives, variants, expression products and hybrid molecules of the invention. Further provided are uses of the derivatives, variants, expression products and hybrid molecules of the invention.

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TROPOELASTIN DERIVATIVES

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to derivatives of human tropoelastin and variants thereof, to genetic constructs encoding the amino acid sequences of the derivatives and variants and to uses of the derivatives and variants. In particular, the derivatives of the present invention have elastin-like properties or macro-molecular binding properties.

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BACKGROUND ART

There are various forms of tropoelastin that typically appear to consist of two types of alternating domains: those rich in hydrophobic amino acids (responsible for the elastic properties) and those rich in lysine residues (responsible for cross-link formation). Hydrophobic and cross-linking domains are encoded in separate exons (Indik et al 1987).

The 26 A region of human tropoelastin is unique amongst tropoelastin domains in that, due to the absence of lysine, this region does not participate in elastin cross-link formation. Furthermore, this region is a serine-rich domain and lacks hydrophobic stretches, indicating that it is unlikely to contribute to the elasticity of tropoelastin. There is otherwise limited information on the structure and functional relationships of the 26 A region (Bedell-Hogan et al., 1993).

The gene for tropoelastin is believed to be present as a single copy in the mammalian genome, and is expressed in the form of multiple transcripts, distinguished by alternative splicing of the pre-mRNA (Indik et al, 1990; Oliver et al, 1987). Modest expression of a natural human tropoelastin sequence has been achieved by Indik et al (1990) using cDNA, providing free polypeptide which unfortunately was unstable.

Expression of substantial amounts of human tropoelastin using synthetic polynucleotides is reported

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in W094/14958. In particular, a construct, SHEL, providing substantial amounts of full length human tropoelastin is described.

5 DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

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In the specification and claims, "derivatives of human tropoelastin" or "tropoelastin derivatives" means novel peptides, polypeptides or proteins which contain amino acid sequences derived from the native amino acid sequences of human tropoelastin molecules. The amino acid sequences of the derivatives of human tropoelastin may be derived from any of the amino acid sequences of the isoforms of human tropoelastin. Derivatives of human tropoelastin are distinguished from human tropoelastin molecules in that the amino acid sequences of derivatives are altered with respect to native tropoelastin sequences by substitution, addition or deletion of residues, or a combination of these alterations, in derivative amino acid sequences.

In a first aspect, the present invention provides derivatives of human tropoelastin which have elastin-like properties. Elastin-like properties are a combination of elastic properties, including the phenomenon of recoil following molecular distention under appropriate conditions, and the ability to be cross-linked to other elastin molecules and/or other elastin-like molecules.

In a second aspect, the present invention provides derivatives of human tropoelastin which have macromolecular binding properties including the ability to bind glycosaminoglycans.

In a third aspect, the present invention provides derivatives of human tropoelastin which have elastin-like properties and macro-molecular binding properties.

The present invention further provides amino acid sequence variants of the derivatives of the invention. In the specification and claims "variants" means amino acid sequences which retain the properties of the corresponding derivative of human tropoelastin, for example, elastin-

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like properties or macro-molecular binding properties, or a combination of elastin-like properties and macromolecular binding properties, and have an amino acid sequence which is homologous with the amino acid sequence 5 of the corresponding derivative. For the purposes of this description, "homology" between the amino acid sequence of a particular derivative of human tropoelastin and another amino acid sequence connotes a likeness short of identity, indicative of a derivation of one sequence from the other. 10 In particular, an amino acid sequence is homologous to a derivative of human tropoelastin if the alignment of that amino acid sequence with the sequence of the derivative of human tropoelastin reveals a similarity of about 65% over any 20 amino acid stretch or over any repetitive element of the molecules shorter than 20 amino acids in length. 15 Such a sequence comparison can be performed via known algorithims, such as that of Lipman and Pearson (1985). Similarity is observed between amino acids where those amino acids have a side chain which confers a similar 20 chemical property in the same chemical environment. For example, threonine and serine are similar amino acids; aspartic acid and glutamic acid are similar amino acids; valine, leucine and isoleucine are similar amino acids Thus, an amino acid sequence may be considered 25 homologous with the amino acid sequence of a human tropoelastin derivative because the alignment of those sequences reveals a similarity of 65%, although at each amino acid position in the aligned sequences, none of the residues are identical.

Inasmuch as the present invention provides derivatives of human tropoelastin and amino acid sequence variants of those derivatives, the invention thus extends to amino acid sequence variants incorporating amino acid sequences of non-human tropoelastins. Amino acid sequence variants which are non-human tropoelastin derivatives, or are based all, or in part, on non-human tropoelastin derivatives retain properties of the corresponding derivative of non-human tropoelastin, for example,

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elastin-like properties or macro-molecular binding properties, or a combination of elastin-like properties and macro-molecular binding properties, and have an amino acid sequence which is homologous with the amino acid sequence of the corresponding human derivative. 5 variants of the invention also include variants of the non-human tropoelastin derivatives, or of derivatives based on the non-human tropoelastin derivatives. "Homology" between the amino acid sequence of a particular 10 derivative of non-human tropoelastin and another amino acid sequence connotes a likeness short of identity, indicative of a derivation of one sequence from the other. In particular, an amino acid sequence is homologous to a derivative of non-human tropoelastin if the alignment of 15 that amino acid sequence with the sequence of the derivative of non-human tropoelastin reveals a similarity of about 65% over any 20 amino acid stretch or over any repetitive element of the molecules shorter than 20 amino acids in length. The skilled addressee will understand 20 that species that are substantially phylogenetically related to humans express tropoelastin molecules which consist of amino acid sequences with homology to human tropoelastin amino acid sequences. Indeed, amino acid sequences of non-human tropoelastins have been determined, 25 including the amino acid sequences of chick tropoelastin, bovine tropoelastin and rat tropoelastin (Bressan et al. 1987, Raju et al. 1987, Pierce et al. 1992) and over multiple regions, these are homologous with the human tropoelastin amino acid sequences. The skilled addressee 30 will recognise therefore, that derivatives of human tropoelastin and amino acid sequence variants of those derivatives will necessarily encompass corresponding tropoelastin amino acid sequences from these and other non-human species.

The present invention provides a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL&modified (SEQ ID NO:5). The amino acid sequence of

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SHELDmodified and the alignment of that amino acid sequence with the human tropoelastin sequence is shown in Figure 5.

The invention also provides an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL&modified.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELSmodified. The nucleotide sequence encoding SHELSmodified is shown in Figure 3 (SEQ ID NO:

4). Preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence which corresponds to SHEL δ modified shown in Figure 3.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding
an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative
SHEL&modified.

The present invention further provides a synthetic polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELδ26A (SEQ ID 20 NO:3). A synthetic polynucleotide is a molecule which comprises a nucleotide sequence that contains silent mutations with respect to the corresponding native polynucleotide molecule. The silent mutations enhance the expression of the synthetic polynucleotide. The amino 25 acid sequence of SHEL 826A and the alignment of that amino acid sequence with the human tropoelastin sequence is shown in Figure 2. The SHEL δ 26A derivative excludes the SHEL coding sequence corresponding to exon 26A. Preferably the synthetic polynucleotide comprises the 30 sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) from nucleotide position 1 to 1676 contiguous with nucleotide position

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative SHEL δ 26A.

35 The invention also provides an amino acid sequence

1775 to 2210.

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variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL δ 26A.

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The present inventor has, for the first time, shown that the region encoded by exon 26A (peptide 26A) of the tropoelastin gene binds glycosaminoglycans (GAGs) (Figure 6A and B). GAGs are macro-molecules particularly associated with the extracellular environment. These molecules play an important role in the architecture and mechanical properties of connective tissues and mediate interactions with and availability of other molecules.

Thus, the present invention provides a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A. Peptide 26A has the amino acid sequence:

GADEGVRRSLSPELREGDPSSSQHLPSTPSSPRV (SEQ ID NO: 12) or

GADEGVRRSLSPELREGDPSSSQHLPSTPSSPRF (SEO ID NO: 13).

The present invention also provides an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A. Preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1) from nucleotide position 1687 to 1778. Preferably the 3' terminal codon is GTT (which encodes V) or TTT (which encodes F).

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A.

In appreciating the GAG binding property of peptide

26A, the present inventor envisages the generation of
novel subsets of hybrid molecules, comprising biological
polymers which are linked to peptide 26A, wherein the
peptide 26A imparts GAG binding activity to the polymer.

In particular, the present inventor has recognised that
the deletion or insertion of the peptide 26A amino acid
sequence, or a variant of that amino acid sequence will
alter GAG binding activity. Thus, the present invention
relates to tropoelastin derivatives in which full length

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or partial length tropoelastin molecules have been modified by the addition of one or more exon 26A regions to enhance interactions with GAGs. Moreover, the invention relates to site directed modification of the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A so as to generate variants of the peptide 26A amino acid sequence which have altered affinity or altered specificity for GAGs. Tropoelastin derivatives or variants of the derivatives which contain altered GAG binding activity may be uncross-linked or cross-linked.

In another aspect, the invention provides a hybrid molecule. In the specification and claims, "hybrid molecule" means a molecule comprising a biological polymer which is linked to a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A or an amino acid sequence variant of a derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A. Preferably the biological polymer is a protein. More preferably the protein is selected from the group consisting of growth factors, cytokines and antibodies. Alternatively the biological polymer is selected from the group consisting of lipids, sugars or nucleic acids.

In one embodiment, and where the biological polymer is a protein, the hybrid molecule is produced by recombinant DNA techniques, including for example the construction of a nucleotide sequence which encodes the biological polymer and the tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A, or the amino acid sequence variant of a derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26 A, in a single open reading frame. Alternatively, the hybrid molecule may be produced synthetically by solid phase peptide synthesis, including, for example the methods of synthesis disclosed in Merrifield (1963) or Knorr et al. (1989). Examples of peptide synthesis also include the synthesis methods used by peptide synthesisers of Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems, CA, US.

In another aspect, the invention provides a

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polynucleotide sequence encoding a hybrid molecule of the invention.

In another aspect, the invention provides a hybrid molecule which comprises a synthetic polymer which is linked in a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A.

The invention further provides a method of imparting or enhancing GAG binding activity to a biological polymer comprising the step of linking a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of peptide 26A with the biological polymer. Preferably the biological polymer is a protein.

The invention further provides a method of deleting or reducing GAG binding activity from a biological polymer comprising the step of deleting a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of peptide 26A from the biological polymer. Preferably the biological polymer is a protein.

The present invention also provides a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma. SHELgamma has the amino acid sequence: SAMGALVGLGVPGLGVGAGVPGFGAGADEGVRRSLSPELREGDPSSSQHLPSTPSSPR VPGALAAAKAAKYGAAVPGVLGGLGALGGVGIPGGVVGAGPAAAAAAAKAAQFGLVGAAGLGGUGGUGGUGGUGGIPPAAAAKAAKYGAAGLGGVLGGAGQFPLGGVAARPGFGLSPIFPGGACLGKACGRKRK (SEQ ID NO: 9).

The invention also provides an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma. The nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide SHELgamma (SEQ ID NO: 8) is shown in Figure 8. In this nucleotide sequence, the first 9 codons from nucleotide position 948 to 974 are derived

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from the glutathione S-transferase (GST) fusion nucleotide sequence. Preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 8. More preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 8 from nucleotide sequence position 975 to 1547.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma.

The present invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma excluding exon 26A. The nucleotide sequence of the polynucleotide SHELgamma excluding exon 26A (SEQ ID NO: 6) is shown in Figure 7. In this nucleotide sequence, the first 5 codons from nucleotide position 948 to 962 are derived from the GST nucleotide sequence. SHELgamma excluding exon 26A has the following amino acid sequence:

VPGALAAAKAAKYGAAVPGVLGGLGALGGVGIPGGVVGAGPAAAAAAAKAAAKAAQFG LVGAAGLGGLGVGGLGVPGVGGLGGIPPAAAAKAAKYGAAGLGGVLGGAGQFPLGGVA ARPGFGLSPIFPGGACLGKACGRKRK (SEO ID NO: 7).

Preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:6. More preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 6 from nucleotide sequence position 15 to 441.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma excluding exon 26A.

The invention also provides a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma excluding exon 26A.

The invention also provides an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising SHELgamma excluding exon 26A.

35 The derivatives of the invention based on SHELgamma can also be produced by *in vitro* biochemical cleavage of tropoelastin products such as SHEL, so as to release a carboxy-terminal fragment. The carboxy-terminal fragment

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may be purified by reverse phase HPLC.

The present invention also provides a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL31-36. SHEL31-36 has the following amino acid sequence: GIPPAAAAKAAKYGAAGLGGVLGGAGQFPLGGVAARPGFGLSPIFPGGACLGKACG-RKRK (SEQ ID NO: 10).

SHEL31-36 retains a crosslinking domain. As a consequence of its elastin-like properties, it is envisaged that this and related tropoelastin derivatives can be used to interfere with tropoelastin deposition and formation of unaltered elastic fibre.

The invention also provides an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL31-36.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL31-36. Preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO:1) from nucleotide position 2022 to 20.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL31-36.

The present invention also provides a tropoelastin derivative, comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL32-36. SHEL32-36 has the following amino acid sequence: GAAGLGGVLGGAGQFPLGGVAARPGFGLSPIFPGGACLGKACGRKRK (SEQ ID NO: 11).

The invention also provides an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL32-36.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL32-36. Preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 1 (SEQ ID NO: 1) from nucleotide position 2061 to 2210.

The present invention also provides a polynucleotide

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encoding an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL32-36.

As a consequence of its elastin-like properties, it is envisaged that SHEL32-36 and related tropoelastin derivatives can be used to interfere with tropoelastin deposition and formation of an unaltered elastic fibre.

The present invention also provides a tropoelastin derivative, comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-36. SHEL26-36 has the following amino acid sequence:

AAAGLGAGIPGLGVGVGVPGLGVGAGVPGLGVGAGVPGFGAGADEGVRRSLSPELREGD
PSSSQHLPSTPSSPRVPGALAAAKAAKYGAAVPGVLGGLGALGGVGIPGGVVGAGPAAA
AAAAKAAAKAAQFGLVGAAGLGGLGVGGLGVPGVGGLGGIPPAAAAKAAKYGAAGLGGV
LGGAGQFPLGGVAARPGFGLSPIFPGGACLGKACGRKRK (SEO ID NO: 14)

The invention also provides an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-36.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-36. Preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 1 from nucleotide position 1554-2210.

The present invention also provides a tropoelastin derivative, comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-36 excluding exon 26A. SHEL26-36 excluding exon 26A has the following amino acid sequence:

AAAGLGAGIPGLGVGVGVPGLGVGAGVPGLGVGAGVPGFGAVPGALAAAKAAKYGAAVP
GVLGGLGALGGVGIPGGVVGAGPAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAQFGLVGAAGLGGLGVGGLGVPG
VGGLGGIPPAAAAKAAKYGAAGLGGVLGGAGQFPLGGVAARPGFGLSPIFPGGACLGKA
CGRKRK (SEQ ID NO: 15)

The invention also provides an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-36 excluding exon 26A.

The invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-36 excluding exon 26A. Preferably the polynucleotide comprises the nucleotide sequence shown in Figure 1 from nucleotide position 1554

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to 1676 contiguous with 1776 to 2210.

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The present invention also provides a polynucleotide encoding an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-36.

In another aspect the present invention provides a formulation comprising a tropoelastin derivative, a variant of the derivative or a hybrid molecule of the invention, together with a carrier or diluent.

Formulations of the derivatives, variants or hybrid molecules of the invention can be prepared in accordance with standard techniques appropriate to the field in which they are to be used.

The polynucleotides and synthetic polynucleotides of the invention can be provided in association with other polynucleotide sequences including 5' and 3' untranslated sequences, and 5' upstream and 3' downstream transcriptional regulatory sequences. The polynucleotides and synthetic polynucleotides may be provided as a recombinant DNA molecule including plasmid DNA.

The polynucleotides and synthetic polynucleotides of the invention can be prepared using the techniques of chemical synthesis or recombinant DNA technology, or by a combination of both techniques.

In a further aspect the invention provides a vector comprising a polynucleotide or synthetic polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, a variant of the derivative or a hybrid molecule of the invention.

Vectors useful in this invention include plasmids, phages and phagemids. The polynucleotides and synthetic polynucleotides of the present invention can also be used in integrative expression systems or lytic or comparable expression systems.

Suitable vectors will generally contain origins of replication and control sequences which are derived from species compatible with the intended expression host. Typically these vectors include a promoter located upstream from the polynucleotide, together with a ribosome binding site if intended for prokaryotic expression, and a

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phenotypic selection gene such as one conferring antibiotic resistance or supplying an auxotrophic requirement. For production vectors, vectors which provide for enhanced stability through partitioning may be chosen. Where integrative vectors are used it is not necessary for the vector to have an origin of replication. Lytic and other comparable expression systems do not need to have those functions required for maintenance of vectors in hosts.

10 For E. coli typical vectors include pBR322,
pBluescript II SK, pGEX-2T, pTrc99A, pET series vectors,
particularly pET3d, (Studier et al., 1990) and derivatives
of these vectors. Derivatives include those plasmids with
a modified protease recognition sequence to facilitate
purification of a protein domain.

In another aspect the invention provides a cell capable of expressing a polynucleotide or a synthetic polynucleotide which encodes a derivative or variant of the invention, or a polynucleotide which encodes a hybrid molecule of the invention.

A preferred expression system is an *E. coli* expression system. However, the invention includes within its scope the use of other hosts capable of expressing protein from the polynucleotides designed for use in *E. coli*. The invention also includes the use of polynucleotides and synthetic polynucleotides suitable for use in other expression systems such as other microbial

expression systems. These other expression systems include yeast, and bacterial expression systems, insect cell expression systems, and expression systems involving other eukaryotic cell lines or whole organisms.

Examples of *E. coli* hosts include *E. coli* B strain derivatives (Studier *et al*, 1990), and K-strain derivatives such as NM522 (Gough and Murray, 1983) and XL1-Blue (Bullock *et al*, 1987).

In a further aspect the present invention provides an expression product. In the specification and claims, "expression product" means a derivative or variant of the

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invention expressed by a cell containing a polynucleotide or a synthetic polynucleotide encoding a derivative or variant of the invention.

The expression products of the invention may be fused expression products which include all or part of a protein encoded by the vector in peptide linkage with the derivative or variant. They may also include, for example, an N-terminal methionine or other additional residues which do not permanently impair the elastin-like, or macro-molecular binding properties of the product.

Typically the fusion is to the N-terminus of the expression product. An example of a suitable protein is to the C-terminus of glutathione S-transferase. The fused protein sequence may be chosen in order to cause the expression product to be secreted or expressed as a cell surface protein to simplify purification or expressed as a cytoplasmic protein.

The expressed fusion products may subsequently be treated to remove the fused protein sequences to provide free tropoelastin derivative or variant. Treatment is typically through protease treatment or, in the case of secretion, removal is effected by endogenous host secretion machinery. An example of this is secretion by yeasts.

Non-fused systems include the introduction of or use of a pre-existing methionine codon. An example of this is the use of pET3a or pET3d in *E. coli*.

In another aspect the invention provides a polynucleotide encoding an expression product of the invention.

In another aspect the present invention provides a formulation comprising an expression product of the invention together with a carrier or diluent. The formulation of the expression product can be prepared in accordance with standard techniques appropriate to the field in which they are to be used.

According to a further aspect of the present invention there is provided a method for producing a

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tropoelastin derivative or a variant of the derivative comprising providing a vector containing a polynucleotide or a synthetic polynucleotide encoding the derivative or variant; introducing the vector into a suitable host cell; maintaining the cell in conditions suitable for expression of the polynucleotide or synthetic polynucleotide and isolating the derivative or variant of the invention. method can be applied to the production of the expression products and hybrid molecules (in which the hybrid molecules comprise the peptide 26A or a variant thereof and a further amino acid sequence) of the invention, by providing a vector containing a polynucleotide encoding an expression product or a hybrid molecule; introducing the vector into a suitable host cell; maintaining the cell in conditions suitable for expression of the polynucleotide and isolating the expression product or hybrid molecule.

In one embodiment, the polynucleotide or synthetic polynucleotide encoding the derivative, variant, expression product or hybrid molecule of the invention is expressed in a host cell which is maintained in culture in vitro.

Alternatively, the polynucleotide or synthetic polynucleotide encoding the derivative, variant, expression product or hybrid molecule of the invention is expressed in a host cell which is maintained in vivo. Thus, in another embodiment, the polynucleotide or synthetic polynucleotide encoding the derivative, variant, expression product or hybrid molecule of the invention is expressed in a transgenic animal. Methods for the generation of transgenic animals are known in the art. Exemplary methods are described in Slack et al. 1991 and Janne et al. 1992.

The tropoelastin derivatives, variants of the derivatives, and hybrid molecules (in which the hybrid molecules comprise the peptide 26A or a variant thereof and a further amino acid sequence) of the invention may be produced by solid phase peptide synthesis, including, for example, the methods of synthesis disclosed in Merrifield

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(1963) or Knorr et al (1989). Examples of peptide synthesis also include the synthesis methods used by peptide synthesisers of Perkin Elmer/Applied Biosystems, CA, US. As an alternative to cell synthesis from a polynucleotide or synthetic polynucleotide, the expression products of the invention may be produced by solid phase peptide synthesis.

In a further aspect the present invention provides an implant formed from at least one tropoelastin derivative and/or variant of the derivative of the invention. The implant may alternatively contain at least one expression product and/or at least one hybrid molecule of the invention.

The implants are formed into the required shape by cross-linking the tropoelastin derivative, variant of the derivative, expression product, or hybrid molecule of the invention, in a mould which conforms to the desired shape of the implant. Where the implant is required to be used in sheet form the tropoelastin derivative, variant of the derivative, expression product, or hybrid molecule of the invention can be cross-linked on a flat surface. Relevant methodologies are described in, for example, US Patent No. 4 474 851 and US Patent No. 5 250 516. The elastomeric materials may be exclusively prepared from one or more tropoelastin derivatives, variants of the derivative, expression products, or hybrid molecules of the invention or may be composites prepared from one or more of these constituents together with other materials.

The tropoelastin derivatives or variants of the derivatives can be cross-linked to form elastin or elastin-like material or can be cross-linked in conjunction with other biological or synthetic molecules to form a composite material.

Thus in another aspect the invention provides a cross-linked complex which comprises at least one tropoelastin derivative of the invention and/or at least one variant of a derivative of the invention. The cross-linked complexes may additionally contain at least one

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expression product and/or at least one hybrid molecule of the invention, which may be cross-linked to the at least one tropoelastin derivative and/or variant of the derivative of the invention.

The cross-linking of the tropoelastin derivatives, variants of the derivatives, hybrid molecules and expression products of the invention can be achieved by chemical oxidation of lysine side chains using processes such as ruthenium tetroxide mediated oxidation and quinone mediated oxidation, or by using homobifunctional chemical cross-linking agents such as dithiobis (succinimidylpropionate), dimethyl adipimidate or dimethyl pimelimidate. Glutaraldehyde cross-linking is an important addition to this repetoire. Another alternative is the cross-linking of lysine and glutamic side chains.

The tropoelastin derivatives, variants of the derivatives, hybrid molecules and expression products of the invention may also be enzymatically cross-linked by methods including lysyl oxidase mediated oxidation or may be cross-linked using gamma irradiation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure 1: Nucleotide (SEQ ID NO: 1) and predicted amino acid (SEQ ID NO:2) sequences of synthetic human tropoelastin SHEL. The upper (numbered) nucleotide sequence represents the coding strand.

Figure 2: Alignment of SHEL (SEQ ID NO:2) (upper line) and SHEL δ 26A (SEQ ID NO: 3) amino acid sequences.

Figure 3: Nucleotide (SEQ ID NO: 4) and predicted amino acid (SEQ ID NO: 5) sequences of SHEL&modified.

Figure 4: Alignment of SHELomodified (SEQ ID NO: 4) (upper line) and SHEL (SEQ ID NO:1) nucleotide sequences.

Figure 5: Alignment of SHELomodified (SEQ ID NO: 5) (lower line) and SHEL (SEQ ID NO: 1) amino acid sequences.

Figure 6A: HPLC elution profile of GST-exon 26A fusion protein tropoelastin derivative loaded in from

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heparin sepharose. 6B: Binding of peptide 26A (SEQ ID NO: 12 and SEQ ID NO: 13) to glycosaminoglycans.

Figure 7: Nucleotide (SEQ ID NO: 6) and predicted amino acid (SEQ ID NO: 7) sequences of SHELgamma excluding exon 26A.

Figure 8: Nucleotide (SEQ ID NO: 8) and predicted amino acid (SEQ ID NO: 9) sequences of SHELgamma.

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BEST METHOD OF PERFORMING THE INVENTION

The recombinant and synthetic procedures used for the synthesis of the derivatives, variants, expression products and hybrid molecules of the invention are described in standard texts such as Sambrook et al (1989).

Tropoelastin nucleotide sequences may be modified so as to provide derivatives, variants, expression products or hybrid molecules, by conventional site-directed or random mutagenesis. The sequences may also be modified by oligonucleotide-directed mutagenesis, which comprises the following steps:

- synthesis of an oligonucleotide with a sequence that contains the desired nucleotide substitution (mutation);
 - hybridising the oligonucleotide to a template comprising a structural sequence encoding tropoelastin; and
 - using a DNA polymerase to extend the oligonucleotide as a primer.

Another approach which is particularly suited to situations where a synthetic polynucleotide encoding the tropoelastin derivative is prepared from oligonucleotide blocks bounded by restriction sites, is cassette mutagenesis where entire restriction fragments are replaced.

Purification of the derivatives, variants, expression products or hybrid molecules of the invention is performed using standard techniques including HPLC. The actual sequence of steps in the purification of a particular derivative, variant, expression product or hybrid molecule

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is limited by the environment from which the molecule is to be purified. By way of example, reference is made to the purification scheme disclosed in WO94/14958.

Formulations in accordance with the invention are formulated in accordance with standard techniques.

The amount of derivative, variant, expression product or hybrid molecule that may be combined with a carrier or diluent to produce a single dosage will vary depending on the situation in which the formulation is to be used and the particular mode of administration.

It will be understood also that specific doses for any particular host may be influenced by factors such as the age, sex, weight and general health of the host as well as the particular characteristics of the derivative, variant, expression product or hybrid molecule of the invention being used, and how it is administered.

Injectable preparations, for example, sterile injectable aqueous or oleagenous suspensions may be formulated according to the known art using suitable dispersing or wetting agents and suspending agents. sterile injectable preparation may also be a sterile injectable solution or suspension in a non-toxic. parenterally acceptable diluent or solvent. Among the acceptable vehicles or solvents that may be employed are water, Ringer's solution, alcohols and isotonic sodium chloride solution. In addition, sterile, fixed oils are conventionally employed as a solvent or suspending medium. For this purpose any bland fixed oil may be employed including synthetic mono- or diglycerides. In addition, fatty acids such as oleic acid and organic solvents find use in the preparation of injectables.

Routes of administration, dosages to be administered as well as frequency of administration are all factors which can be optimised using ordinary skill in the art.

In addition, the derivatives, variants, expression products and hybrid molecules of the invention may be prepared as topical preparations for instance as anti-wrinkle and hand lotions using standard techniques for the

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preparation of such formulations. They may be prepared in aerosol form for, for instance, administration to a patient's lungs, or in the form of surgical implants, foods or industrial products by standard techniques.

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SHEL

The preparation of SHEL is described in WO94/14958. It is directly expressed as a full length human protein with a calculated molecular weight of 64kDa. The full nucleotide sequence and corresponding amino acid sequence of SHEL is shown in Figure 1. The preparation of pSHELF is described in WO94/14958.

pSHELF differs from the natural coding sequence(s) in a number of ways. As described in WO94/14958, the 15 untranslated regions present in the tropoelastin cDNA sequence were disregarded in designing the synthetic gene, and the nucleotides encoding the signal peptide were removed. Restriction endonuclease recognition sites were incorporated at regular intervals into the gene by 20` typically altering only the third base of the relevant codons, thereby maintaining the primary sequence of the gene product. The facility for silent alteration of the coding sequence was also exploited to change the codon bias of the tropoelastin gene to that commonly found in highly 25 expressed E.coli genes. [Genetics Computer Group (GCG) package version 7-UNIX using Codon Frequency and Gen Run Data: ecohigh-cod]. Two additional stop codons were added to the 3'-end, and an ATG start codon comprising a novel NcoI site was appended to the 5'-end. Bam HI cloning sites 30 were engineered at both ends of the synthetic sequence. Since the gene contains no internal methionine residues, treatment of the newly-synthesized gene product (expressed directly or as a fusion with another gene) with cyanogen bromide would liberate a protein with the same or similar 35 sequence as one form of natural tropoelastin comprising 731 amino acids. Other forms of processing are envisaged, which may generate tropoelastin species of the same or different lengths.

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Two stop codons were added in order to allow the possible use of the construct in suppressor hosts, and also to avoid any potential depletion of termination (release) factors for translation.

As described in the following examples, the derivatives, pSHELFδ26A, pSHELFδ modified, pSHELgamma, pSHEL31-36, pSHEL32-36 and pSHELgammaδ26A were derived from the pSHELF nucleotide sequence. These particular derivatives, and indeed the derivaties, variants, expression products and hybrid molecules of the invention can equally be derived from a native human or non -human tropoelastin nucleotide sequence.

Example 1: Construction of pSHELFδ26A and pSHELFδ modified

Mutagenesis was used with pSHELF to remove DNA corresponding to exon 26A. The sequence of the mutagenic primer was:

5'CGG GTT TCG GTG CTG TTC CGG GCG CGC TGG 3' This flanked either side of exon 26A by 15bp resulting in its precise deletion. A second selection primer, which mutates a unique restriction site to another restriction site is normally used in the protocol but was not in this case since deletion of exon 26A also resulted in the deletion of a unique restriction site, PmlI. enzyme PmlI was used to treat the mutation reaction to linearise any unmutated parental plasmid and consequently to enrich for mutant plasmid. The reaction mixture was used to transform competent BMH17-18 mutS E. coli, defective in mismatch repair, by electroporation and the entire transformed culture was grown overnight in LB+ampicillin. Mixed plasmid DNA, containing both mutated and parental plasmids, was isolated from the culture and the plasmid DNA was digested with PmlI to linearise the parental plasmid. The plasmid DNA, now enriched for mutated plasmid, was used to transform E. coli HMS174 by electroporation and transformants selected on LB plates

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containing 75µgml⁻¹ ampicillin.

Colonies were grown overnight and plasmid minipreparations performed. Constructs were screened using *PmlI* and those which were insensitive to digestion were further screened by *KpnI/PstI* double digestion. Candidate clones were sequenced to verify the sequence, named pSHELFômodified.

Sequencing confirmed the region immediately surrounding the deletion was correct. PstI and BssHII restriction sites surrounding the correct region of pSHELFômodified were used to remove the desired segment and re-insert it into the corresponding site of pSHELF. 6.5µg pSHELF and 7.5µg pSHELFômodified were digested with BssHII, precipitated and digested with PstI. The appropriate three fragments were gel-purified and ligated. DNA was transformed into E. coli XLl-Blue and transformants selected on plates containing 75µgml⁻¹ ampicillin.

Plasmids were isolated by mini-preparations and screened using BglI digestion. A candidate clone was further analysed by restriction enzyme digestion and sequenced, and named pSHELF $\delta26A$.

Example 2: Synthesis of Exon 26A

The region of SHEL corresponding to exon 26A was amplified by PCR, with primers modified to introduce an in-frame BamH1 site upstream and a stop codon downstream at the 3' end. Two forms were generated: one terminating in valine (26AV) and the other terminating in phenyalanine (26AF). These forms are as follows:

GADEGVRRSLSPELREGDPSSSQHLPSTPSSPRV with properties:

Molecular weight = 3588.80

Residues = 34

Average Residue Weight = 105.553

35 Charge = -1

Isoelectric point = 5.71

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and

GADEGVRRSLSPELREGDPSSSQHLPSTPSSPRF

A 26A coding region was expressed as a glutathione Stransferase (GST) fusion protein.

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Example 3: Glycosaminoglycan binding activity of Exon 26A

Ultrafiltration assay methodology was developed to examine and quantify interactions occurring *in vitro* between the 26A region and purified extracellular matrix glcosaminoglycans. GST26A fusion protein and tropoelastin were compared with GST and tropoelastin lacking exon 26A at physiologicaly relevant conditions of pH and ionic strength.

Experimental evidence supports the notion that peptide 26A (26AF and 26AV) binds GAGs. Immobilised heparin column binding shows that GST26A binds more tightly than does GST, and requires a higher sodium chloride concentration for elution (Figure 6B).

Furthermore, GST26A fusion protein binds radioactive heparin with greater efficiencies than GST, and these can be compared with GAGs including chondroitin sulphates and keratin sulphates. An implication of this is that GAGs binding to tropoelastin can be adjusted based upon the content of 26A. Cross-linked tropoelastin would be expected to show differential binding to GAGs based on the relative amounts of SHEL vs. SHELδ26A.

In summary, these studies reveal that the 26A region is a functional glycosaminoglycan binding domain, which functions in intact tropoelastin. It is also active when isolated as a fusion entity yet displays no detectable structure in the absence of bound GAG. Furthermore, panel competition studies indicate a preference for those GAGs found in close association with the elastic fibre in the extracellular matrix.

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Example 4: Construction of pSHELgamma, pSHEL31-36, pSHEL32-36 and pSHELgammaδ26A

pSHELgamma is derived from the pSHELgamma construct disclosed in WO94/14958. pSHEL31-36, pSHEL32-36 and 5 pSHELgammaδ26A were derived from pSHELgamma. pSHELgamma was modified by introducing an oligonucleotide linker at the KpnI site. This encoded a factor Xa cleavage site which could be utilised in subsequent constructs. PCR and site directed mutagenesis was then used to generate 10 further, shorter forms which provided fusions with GST. Constructs were DNA sequenced for verification. Induced protein was isolated as GST-fusion proteins, which were subsequently bound to glutathione agarose. Protease cleavage was optional where fusion proteins were desired; 15 otherwise the cleaved proteins and peptides were further purified by reverse phase HPLC.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICATION

The derivatives and expression products of the invention are of use in *inter alia* the medical, pharmaceutical, veterinary and cosmetic fields.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: WEISS, ANTHONY S
 UNIVERSITY, SYDNEY
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: TROPOELASTIN DERIVATIVES
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 15
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: GRIFFITH HACK
 - (B) STREET: 168 WALKER STREET
 - (C) CITY: NORTH SYDNEY
 - (D) STATE: NEW SOUTH WALES
 - (E) COUNTRY: AUSTRALIA
 - (F) ZIP: 2060
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: AU
 - (B) FILING DATE:
 - (C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: AU PO8117
 - (B) FILING DATE: 18-JUL-1997
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: GUMLEY, THOMAS P
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 04828ZK
 - (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - (A) TELEPHONE: 61 2 9957 5944
 - (B) TELEFAX: 61 2 9957 6288
 - (C) TELEX: 26547
- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

(i	SEOUENCE	CHARACTERISTICS	:
١			CHARACTERISTICS	3

- (A) LENGTH: 2210 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

- (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: YES
- (iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

GATCCATGGG	TGGCGTTCCG	GGTGCTATCC	CGGGTGGCGT	TCCGGGTGGT	GTATTCTACC	60
CAGGCGCGGG	TCTGGGTGCA	CTGGGCGGTG	GTGCGCTGGG	CCCGGGTGGT	AAACCGCTGA	120
AACCGGTTCC	AGGCGGTCTG	GCAGGTGCTG	GTCTGGGTGC	AGGTCTGGGC	GCGTTCCCGG	180
CGGTTACCTT	CCCGGGTGCT	CTGGTTCCGG	GTGGCGTTGC	AGACGCAGCT	GCTGCGTACA	240
AAGCGGCAAA	GGCAGGTGCG	GGTCTGGGCG	GGGTACCAGG	TGTTGGCGGT	CTGGGTGTAT	300
CTGCTGGCGC	AGTTGTTCCG	CAGCCGGGTG	CAGGTGTAAA	ACCGGGCAAA	GTTCCAGGTG	360
TTGGTCTGCC	GGGCGTATAC	CCGGGTGGTG	TTCTGCCGGG	CGCGCGTTTC	CCAGGTGTTG	420
GTGTACTGCC	GGGCGTTCCG	ACCGGTGCAG	GTGTTAAACC	GAAGGCACCA	GGTGTAGGCG	480
GCGCGTTCGC	GGGTATCCCG	GGTGTTGGCC	CGTTCGCTGG	TCCGCAGCCA	GGCGTTCCGC	540
TGGGTTACCC	GATCAAAGCG	CCGAAGCTTC	CAGGTGGCTA	CGGTCTGCCG	TACACCACCG	600
GTAAACTGCC	GTACGGCTAC	GGTCCGGGTG	GCGTAGCAGG	TGCTGCGGGT	AAAGCAGGCT	660
ACCCAACCGG	TACTGGTGTT	GGTCCGCAGG	CTGCTGCGGC	AGCTGCGGCG	AAGGCAGCAG	720
CAAAATTCGG	CGCGGGTGCA	GCGGGTGTTC	TGCCGGGCGT	AGGTGGTGCT	GGCGTTCCGG	780
GTGTTCCAGG	TGCGATCCCG	GGCATCGGTG	GTATCGCAGG	CGTAGGTACT	CCGGCGGCCG	840

CTGCGGCTGC	GGCAGCTGCG	GCGAAAGCAG	CTAAATACGG	TGCGGCAGCA	GGCCTGGTTC	900
CGGGTGGTCC	AGGCTTCGGT	CCGGGTGTTG	TAGGCGTTCC	GGGTGCTGGT	GTTCCGGGCG	960
TAGGTGTTCC	AGGTGCGGGC	ATCCCGGTTG	TACCGGGTGC	AGGTATCCCG	GGCGCTGCGG	1020
TTCCAGGTGT	TGTATCCCCG	GAAGCGGCAG	CTAAGGCTGC	TGCGAAAGCT	GCGAAATACG	1080
GAGCTCGTCC	GGGCGTTGGT	GTTGGTGGCA	TCCCGACCTA	CGGTGTAGGT	GCAGGCGGTT	1140
TCCCAGGTTT	CGGCGTTGGT	GTTGGTGGCA	TCCCGGGTGT	AGCTGGTGTT	CCGTCTGTTG	1200
GTGGCGTACC	GGGTGTTGGT	GGCGTTCCAG	GTGTAGGTAT	CTCCCCGGAA	GCGCAGGCAG	1260
CTGCGGCAGC	TAAAGCAGCG	AAGTACGGCG	TTGGTACTCC	GGCGGCAGCA	GCTGCTAAAG	1320
CAGCGGCTAA	AGCAGCGCAG	TTCGGACTAG	TTCCGGGCGT	AGGTGTTGCG	CCAGGTGTTG	1380
GCGTAGCACC	GGGTGTTGGT	GTTGCTCCGG	GCGTAGGTCT	GGCACCGGGT	GTTGGCGTTG	1440
CACCAGGTGT	AGGTGTTGCG	CCGGGCGTTG	GTGTAGCACC	GGGTATCGGT	CCGGGTGGCG	1500
TTGCGGCTGC	TGCGAAATCT	GCTGCGAAGG	TTGCTGCGAA	AGCGCAGCTG	CGTGCAGCAG	1560
CTGGTCTGGG	TGCGGGCATC	CCAGGTCTGG	GTGTAGGTGT	TGGTGTTCCG	GGCCTGGGTG	1620
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AAGCGGCGAA	ATACGGTGCA	GCGGTTCCGG	GTGTACTGGG	CGGTCTGGGT	GCTCTGGGCG	1860
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AGTTCCCACT	GGGCGGTGTA	GCGGCACGTC	CGGGTTTCGG	TCTGTCCCCG	ATCTTCCCAG	2160
GCGGTGCATG	ССТСССТААА	GCTTGCGGCC	СТАААССТАА	АТААТСАТАС		2210

- 30 -

- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 733 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 - (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
 - (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Ser Met Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Ala Ile Pro Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Gly

1 5 10 15

Val Phe Tyr Pro Gly Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Gly Gly Gly Ala Leu 20 25 30

Gly Pro Gly Gly Lys Pro Leu Lys Pro Val Pro Gly Gly Leu Ala Gly
35 40 45

Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Phe Pro Ala Val Thr Phe Pro 50 55 60

Gly Ala Leu Val Pro Gly Gly Val Ala Asp Ala Ala Ala Ala Tyr Lys 65 70 75 80

Ala Ala Lys Ala Gly Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Val Gly Gly 85 90 95

Leu Gly Val Ser Ala Gly Ala Val Val Pro Gln Pro Gly Ala Gly Val
100 105 110

Lys Pro Gly Lys Val Pro Gly Val Gly Leu Pro Gly Val Tyr Pro Gly
115 .120 125

Gly Val Leu Pro Gly Ala Arg Phe Pro Gly Val Gly Val Leu Pro Gly 130 135 140

Val Pro Thr Gly Ala Gly Val Lys Pro Lys Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Gly 145 150 155 160

Ala Phe Ala Gly Ile Pro Gly Val Gly Pro Phe Gly Gly Pro Gln Pro

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				165					170					175	
Gly	Val	Pro	Leu 180	Gly	Tyr	Pro	Ile	Lys 185	Ala	Pro	Lys	Leu	Pro 190	Gly	Gly
Tyr	Gly	Leu 195	Pro	Tyr	Thr	Thr	Gly 200	Lys	Leu	Pro	Tyr	Gly 205	Tyr	Gly	Pro
Gly	Gly 210	Val	Ala	Gly	Ala	Ala 215	Gly	Lys	Ala	Gly	Туг 220	Pro	Thr	Gly	Thr
Gly 225	Val	Gly	Pro	Gln	Ala 230	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala 235	Ala	Lys	Ala	Ala	Ala 240
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Gly	Val	Pro	Gly 260	Val	Pro	Gly	Ala	Ile 265	Pro	Gly	Ile	Gly	Gly 270	Ile	Ala
Gly	Val	Gly 275	Thr	Pro	Ala	Ala	Ala 280	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala 285	Ala	Ala	Lys
Ala	Ala 290	Lys	Тут	Gly	Ala	Ala 295	Ala	Gly	Leu	Val	Pro 300	Gly	Gly	Pro	Gly
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Gly	Ala	Ala	Val 340	Pro	Gly	Val	Val	Ser 345	Pro	Glu	Ala	Ala	Ala 350	Lys	Ala
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Gly	Ile 370	Pro	Thr	Тут	Gly	Val 375	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gly	Phe 380	Pro	Gly	Phe	Gly
Val 385	Gly	Val	Gly	Gly	Ile 390	Pro	Gly	Val	Ala	Gly 395	Val	Pro	Ser	Val	Gly 400
Gly	Val	Pro	Gly	Val 405	Gly	Gly	Val	Pro	Gly 410		Gly	Ile	Ser	Pro	Glu

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- Ala Gln Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Val Gly Thr
 420 425 430
- Pro Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Gln Phe Gly
 435 440 445
- Leu Val Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly
 450
 455
 460
- Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Leu Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala 465 470 475 480
- Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly Ile Gly
 485 490 495
- Pro Gly Gly Val Ala Ala Ala Lys Ser Ala Ala Lys Val Ala Ala 500 505 510
- Lys Ala Gln Leu Arg Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Gly Ile Pro Gly 515 . 520 525
- Leu Gly Val Gly Val Gly Val Pro Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Ala Gly Val
 530 535 540
- Pro Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Ala Gly Val Pro Gly Phe Gly Ala Gly Ala 545 550 555 560
- Asp Glu Gly Val Arg Arg Ser Leu Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Glu Gly Asp
 565 570 575
- Pro Ser Ser Ser Gln His Leu Pro Ser Thr Pro Ser Ser Pro Arg Val 580 585 590
- Pro Gly Ala Leu Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Val 595 600 605
- Pro Gly Val Leu Gly Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Gly Gly Val Gly Ile Pro 610 615 620
- Gly Gly Val Val Gly Ala Gly Pro Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys 625 630 635 640
- Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Gln Phe Gly Leu Val Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu 645 650 655

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Gly Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Val Pro Gly Val Gly Gly Leu 660 665 670

Gly Gly Ile Pro Pro Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala 675 680 685

Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Val Leu Gly Gly Ala Gly Gln Phe Pro Leu Gly 690 695 700

Gly Val Ala Ala Arg Pro Gly Phe Gly Leu Ser Pro Ile Phe Pro Gly 705 710 715 720

Gly Ala Cys Leu Gly Lys Ala Cys Gly Arg Lys Arg Lys 725 730

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 698 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Ala Ile Pro Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Gly Val Phe
1 5 10 15

Tyr Pro Gly Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Gly Gly Gly Ala Leu Gly Pro
20 25 30

Gly Gly Lys Pro Leu Lys Pro Val Pro Gly Gly Leu Ala Gly Ala Gly 35 40 45

Leu Gly Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Phe Pro Ala Val Thr Phe Pro Gly Ala 50 55 60

Leu Val Pro Gly Gly Val Ala Asp Ala Ala Ala Ala Tyr Lys Ala Ala 65 70 75 80

Lys Ala Gly Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly

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		÷		85					90					95	
Val	Ser	Ala	Gly 100	Ala	Val	Val	Pro	Gln 105	Pro	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val 110	Lys	Pro
Gly	Lys	Val 115	Pro	Gly	Val	Gly	Leu 120	Pro	Gly	Val	Tyr	Pro 125	Gly	Gly	Val
Leu	Pro 130	Gly	Ala	Arg	Phe	Pro 135	Gly	Val	Gly	Val	Leu 140	Pro	Gly	Val	Pro
Thr 145	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val	Lys 150	Pro	Lys	Ala	Pro	Gly 155	Val	Gly	Gly	Ala	Phe 160
Ala	Gly	Ile	Pro	Gly 165	Val	Gly	Pro	Phe	Gly 170	Gly	Pro	Gln	Pro	Gly 175	Val
Pro	Leu	Gly	Tyr 180	Pro	Ile	Lys	Ala	Pro 185	Lys	Leu	Pro	Gly	Gly 190	Tyr	Gly
Leu	Pro	Туг 195	Thr	Thr	Gly	Lys	Leu 200	Pro	Tyr	Gly	Tyr	Gly 205	Pro	Gly	Gly
Val	Ala 210	Gly	Ala	Ala	Gly	Lys 215	Ala	Gly [.]	Tyr	Pro	Thr 220	Gly	Thr	Gly	Val
Gly 225	Pro	Gln	Ala	Ala	Ala 230	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys 235	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys	Phe 240
Gly	Ala	Gly	Ala	Ala 245	Gly	Val	Leu	Pro	Gly 250	Val	Gly	Gly	Ala	Gly 255	Val
Pro	Gly	Val	Pro 260	Gly	Ala	Ile	Pro	Gly 265	Ile	Gly	Gly	Ile	Ala 270	Gly	Val
Gly	Thr	Pro 275	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala 280	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala 285	Lys	Ala	Ala
Lys	Туг 290	Gly	Ala	Ala	Ala	Gly 295	Leu	Val	Pro	Gly	Gly 300	Pro	Gly	Phe	Gly
Pro 305	Gly	Val	Val	Gly	Val 310	Pro	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val 315	Pro	Gly	Val	Gly	Val 320

Pro Gly Ala Gly Ile Pro Val Val Pro Gly Ala Gly Ile Pro Gly Ala

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- Ala Val Pro Gly Val Val Ser Pro Glu Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Ala 340 345 350
- Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Arg Pro Gly Val Gly Val Gly Gly Ile 355 360 365
- Pro Thr Tyr Gly Val Gly Ala Gly Gly Phe Pro Gly Phe Gly Val Gly 370 375 380
- Val Gly Gly Ile Pro Gly Val Ala Gly Val Pro Ser Val Gly Gly Val 385 390 395 400
- Pro Gly Val Gly Val Pro Gly Val Gly Ile Ser Pro Glu Ala Gln
 405 410 415
- Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Val Gly Thr Pro Ala 420 425 430
- Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Gln Phe Gly Leu Val 435 440 445
- Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly Val Gly
 450 455 460
- Val Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Leu Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly 465 470 475 480
- Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly Val Gly Val Ala Pro Gly Ile Gly Pro Gly
 485 490 495
- Gly Val Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ser Ala Ala Lys Val Ala Ala Lys Ala 500 505 510
- Gln Leu Arg Ala Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Gly Ile Pro Gly Leu Gly
 515 520 525
- Val Gly Val Gly Val Pro Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Ala Gly Val Pro Gly 530 535 540
- Leu Gly Val Gly Ala Gly Val Pro Gly Phe Gly Ala Val Pro Gly Ala 545 550 555 560
- Leu Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Val Pro Gly Val
 565 570 575

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Leu Gly Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Gly Gly Val Gly Ile Pro Gly Gly Val
580 585 590

Lys Ala Ala Gln Phe Gly Leu Val Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Leu 610 615 620

Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Val Pro Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Ile 625 630 635 640

Pro Pro Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu 645 650 655

Gly Gly Val Leu Gly Gly Ala Gly Gln Phe Pro Leu Gly Gly Val Ala
660 665 670

Ala Arg Pro Gly Phe Gly Leu Ser Pro Ile Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Cys 675 680 685

Leu Gly Lys Ala Cys Gly Arg Lys Arg Lys 690 695

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 1983 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: double
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)
- (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: YES
- (iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

ATGGGTGGCG TTCCGGGTGC TGTTCCGGGT GGCGTTCCGG GTGGTGTATT CTACCCAGGC

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GCGGGTTTCG GTGCTGTTCC GGGTGGCGTT GCAGACGCAG CTGCTGCGTA CAAAGCGGCA

AAGGCAGGTG	CGGGTCTGGG	CGGGGTACCA	GGTGTTGGCG	GTCTGGGTGT	ATCTGCTGGC	180
GCAGTTGTTC	CGCAGCCGGG	TGCAGGTGTA	AAACCGGGCA	AAGTTCCAGG	TGTTGGTCTG	240
CCGGGCGTAT	ACCCGGGTTT	CGGTGCTGTT	CCGGGCGCGC	GTTTCCCAGG	TGTTGGTGTA	300
CTGCCGGGCG	TTCCGACCGG	TGCAGGTGTT	AAACCGAAGG	CACCAGGTGT	AGGCGGCGCG	360
TTCGCGGGTA	TCCCGGGTGT	TGGCCCGTTC	GGTGGTCCGC	AGCCAGGCGT	TCCGCTGGGT	420
TACCCGATCA	AAGCGCCGAA	GCTTCCAGGT	GGCTACGGTC	TGCCGTACAC	CACCGGTAAA	480
CTGCCGTACG	GCTACGGTCC	GGGTGGCGTA	GCAGGTGCTG	CGGGTAAAGC	AGGCTACCCA	540
ACCGGTACTG	GTGTTGGTCC	GCAGGCTGCT	GCGGCAGCTG	CGGCGAAGGC	AGCAGCAAAA	600
ITCGGCGCGG	GTGCAGCGGG	TTTCGGTGCT	GTTCCGGGCG	TAGGTGGTGC	TGGCGTTCCG	660
GGTGTTCCAG	GTGCGATCCC	GGGCATCGGT	GGTATCGCAG	GCGTAGGTAC	TCCGGCGGCC	720
GCTGCGGCTG	CGGCAGCTGC	GGCGAAAGCA	GCTAAATACG	GTGCGGCAGC	AGGCCTGGTT	780
CCGGGTGGTC	CAGGCTTCGG	TCCGGGTGTT	GTAGGCGTTC	CGGGTTTCGG	TGCTGTTCCG	840
GCCTAGGTG	TTCCAGGTGC	GGGCATCCCG	GTTGTACCGG	GTGCAGGTAT	CCCGGGCGCT	900
GCGGGTTTCG	GTGCTGTATC	CCCGGAAGCG	GCAGCTAAGG	CTGCTGCGAA	AGCTGCGAAA	960
TACGGAGCTC	GTCCGGGCGT	TGGTGTTGGT	GGCATCCCGA	CCTACGGTGT	AGGTGCAGGC	1020
GGTTTCCCAG	GTTTCGGCGT	TGGTGTTGGT	GGCATCCCGG	GTGTAGCTGG	TGTTCCGTCT	1080
GTTGGTGGCG	TACCGGGTGT	TGGTGGCGTT	CCAGGTGTAG	GTATCTCCCC	GGAAGCGCAG	1140
GCAGCTGCGG	CAGCTAAAGC	AGCGAAGTAC	GGCGTTGGTA	CTCCGGCGGC	AGCAGCTGCT	1200
AAAGCAGCGG	CTAAAGCAGC	GCAGTTCGGA	CTAGTTCCGG	GCGTAGGTGT	TGCGCCAGGT	1260
GTTGGCGTAG	CACCGGGTGT	TGGTGTTGCT	CCGGGCGTAG	GTCTGGCACC	GGGTGTTGGC	1320
GTTGCACCAG	GTGTAGGTGT	TGCGCCGGGC	GTTGGTGTAG	CACCGGGTAT	CGGTCCGGGT	1380
GGCGTTGCGG	CTGCTGCGAA	ATCTGCTGCG	AAGGTTGCTG	CGAAAGCGCA	GCTGCGTGCA	1440
GCAGCTGGTC	TGGGTGCGGG	CATCCCAGGT	CTGGGTGTAG	GTGTTGGTGT	TCCGGGCCTG	1500

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GGTGTAGGTG CAGGGGTACC GGGCCTGGGT GTTGGTGCAG GCGTTCCGGG TTTCGGTGCT 1560 GTTCCGGCCG CGCTGCCTGC TGCGAAAGCG GCGAAATACG GTGCTGTTCC GGGTGTACTG 1620 GGCGGTCTGG GTGCTCTGGG CGGTGTTGGT ATCCCGGGCG GTGTTGTAGG TGCAGGCCCA 1680 GCTGCAGCTG CTGCTGCGGC AAAGGCAGCG GCGAAAGCAG CTCAGTTCGG TCTGGTTGGT 1740 GCAGCAGGTC TGGGCGGTCT GGGTGTTGGC GGTCTGGGTG TACCGGGCGT TGGTGGTCTG 1800 GGTGGCATCC CGCCGGCGGC GGCAGCTAAA GCGGCTAAAT ACGGTGCAGC AGGTCTGGGT 1860 GGCGTTCTGG GTGGTGCTGG TCAGTTCCCA CTGGGCGGTG TAGCGGCACG TCCGGGTTTC 1920 GGTCTGTCCC CGATCTTCCC AGGCGGTGCA TGCCTGGGTA AAGCTTGCGG CCGTAAACGT 1980 AAA 1983

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 660 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

Met Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Ala Val Pro Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Gly Val

1 5 10 15

Phe Tyr Pro Gly Ala Gly Phe Gly Ala Val Pro Gly Gly Val Ala Asp 20 25 30

Ala Ala Ala Tyr Lys Ala Ala Lys Ala Gly Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly
35 40 45

Val Pro Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Val Ser Ala Gly Ala Val Val Pro 50 55 60

G1n 65	Pro	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val 70	Lys	Pro	Gly	Lys	Val 75	Pro	Gly	Val	Gly	Leu 80
Pro	Gly	Val	Tyr	Pro 85	Gly	Phe	Gly	Ala	Val 90	Pro	Gly	Ala	Arg	Phe 95	Pro
Gly	Val	Gly	Val 100	Leu	Pro	Gly	Val	Pro 105	Thr	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val 110	Lys	Pro
Lys	Ala	Pro 115	Gly	Val	Gly	Gly	Ala 120	Phe	Ala	Gly	Ile	Pro 125	Gly	Val	Gly
Pro	Phe 130	Gly	Gly	Pro	Gln	Pro 135	Gly	Val	Pro	Leu	Gly 140	Туг	Pro	Ile	Lys
Ala	Pro	Lys	Leu	Pro	Gly	Gly	Tyr	Gly	Leu	Pro	Tyr	Thr	Thr	Gly	Lys
145					150					155			:.		160
Leu	Pro	Туг	Gly	Туг 165	Gly	Pro	Gly	Gly	Val 170	Ala	Ala	Ala		Lys 175	Ala
Gly	Tyr	Pro	Thr 180	Gly	Thr	Gly	Val	Gly 185	Pro	Gln	Ala	Ala	Ala 190	Ala	Ala
Ala	Ala	Lys 195	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys	Phe 200	Gly	Ala	Gly	Ala	Ala 205	Gly	Phe	Gly
Ala	Val 210	Pro	Gly	Val	Gly	Gly 215	Ala	Gly	Val	Pro	Gly 220	Val	Pro	Gly	Ala
Ile 225	Pro	Gly	Ile	Gly	Gly 230	Ile	Ala	Gly	Val	Gly 235	Thr	Pro	Ala	Ala	Ala 240
Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala 245	Ala	Ala	Lys	Ala	Ala 250	Lys	Tyr	Gly	Ala	Ala 255	Ala
Gly	Leu	Val	Pro 260	Gly	Gly	Pro	Gly	Phe 265	Gly	Pro	Gly	Val	Val 270	Gly	Val
Pro	Gly	Phe 275	Gly	Ala	Val	Pro	Gly 280	Val	Gly	Val	Pro	Gly 285	Ala	Gly	Ile
Pro	Val 290	Val	Pro	Gly	Ala	Gly 295	Ile	Pro	Gly	Ala	Ala 300	Gly	Phe	Gly	Ala
Val	Ser	Pro	Glu	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lvs	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lvs	Ala	Ala	Lvs	Tvr

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305					310					315					320
Gly	Ala	Arg	Pro	Gly 325	Val	Gly	Val	Gly	Gly 330	Ile	Pro	Thr	Tyr	Gly 335	Val
Gly	Ala	Gly	Phe 340	Phe	Pro	Gly	Phe	Gly 345	Val	Gly	Val	Gly	Gly 350	Ile	Pro
Gly	Val	Ala 355	Gly	Val	Pro	Ser	Val 360	Gly	Gly	Val	Pro	Gly 365	Val	Gly	Gly
Val	Pro 370	Gly	Val	Gly	Ile	Ser 375	Pro	Glu	Ala	Gln	Ala 380	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala
Lys 385	Ala	Ala	Lys	Tyr	Gly 390	Val	Gly	Thr	Pro	Ala 395	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys 400
Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys	Ala 405	Ala	Gln	Phe	Gly	Leu 410	Val	Pro	Gly	Val	Gly 41 5	Val
Ala	Pro	Gly	Val 420	Gly	Val	Ala	Pro	Gly 425	Val	Gly	Val	Ala	Pro 430	Gly	Val
Gly	Leu	Ala 435	Pro	Gly	Val	Gly	Val 440	Ala	Pro	Gly	Val	Gly 445	Val	Ala	Pro
G1y	Val 450	Gly	Val	Ala	Pro	Gly 4 55	Ile	Gly	Pro	Gly	Gly 460	Val	Ala	Ala	Ala
Ala 465	Lys	Ser	Ala	Ala	Lys 470	Val	Ala	Ala	Lys	Ala 475	Gln	Leu	Arg	Ala	Ala 480
Ala	Gly	Leu	Gly	Ala 485	Gly	Ile	Pro	Gly	Leu 490	Gly	Val	Gly	Val	Gly 4 95	Val
Pro	Gly	Leu	Gly 500	Val	Gly	Ala	Gly	Val 505	Pro	Gly	Leu	Gly	Val 510	Gly	Ala
Gly	Val	Pro 515	Gly	Phe	Gly	Ala	Val 520	Pro	Gly	Ala	Leu	Ala 525	Ala	Ala	Lys
Ala	Ala 530	Lys	Tyr	Gly	Ala	Val 535	Pro	Gly	Val	Leu	Gly 540	Gly	Leu	Gly	Ala
Leu 545	Gly	Gly	Val	Gly	Ile 550	Pro	Gly	Gly	Val	Val 555	Gly	Ala	Gly	Pro	Ala 560

Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys	Ala	Ala	Gln	Phe	Gly
				565					570					575	

Leu Val Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly 580 585 590

Val Pro Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Ile Pro Pro Ala Ala Ala Ala 595 600 605

Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Val Leu Gly Gly 610 615 620

Ala Gly Gln Phe Pro Leu Gly Gly Val Ala Ala Arg Pro Gly Phe Gly 625 630 635 640

Leu Ser Pro Ile Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Cys Leu Gly Lys Ala Cys Gly 645 650 655

Arg Lys Arg Lys

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 441 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: double

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)

(iii) HYPOTHETICAL: YES

(iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

TCCGCCATGG GAGGTGTTCC GGGCGCGCTG GCTGCTGCGA AAGCGGCGAA ATACGGTGCA 60
GCGGTTCCGG GTGTACTGGG CGGTCTGGGT GCTCTGGGCG GTGTTGGTAT CCCGGGCGGT 120
GTTGTAGGTG CAGGCCCAGC TGCAGCTGCT GCTGCGGCAA AGGCAGCGGC GAAAGCAGCT 180

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CAGTTCGGTC	TGGTTGGTGC	AGCAGGTGTG	GGCGGTCTGG	GTGTTGGCGG	TCTGGGTGTA	240
CCGGGCGTTG	GTGGTCTGGG	TGGCATCCCG	CCGGCGGCGG	CAGCTAAAGC	GGCTAAATAC	300
GGTGCAGCAG	GTCTGGGTGG	CGTTCTGGGT	GGTGCTGGTC	AGTTCCCACT	GGGCGGTGTA	360
GCGGCACGTC	CGGGTTTCGG	TCTGTCCCCG	ATCTTCCCAG	GCGGTGCATG	CCTGGGTAAA	420
GCTTGCGGCC	GTAAACGTAA	A				441

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 147 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

Ser Ala Met Gly Gly Val Pro Gly Ala Leu Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala 1 5 10 15

Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Val Pro Gly Val Leu Gly Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu 20 25 30

Gly Gly Val Gly Ile Pro Gly Gly Val Val Gly Ala Gly Pro Ala Ala 35 40 45

Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Gln Phe Gly Leu 50 55 60

Val Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Val 65 70 75 80

Pro Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Ile Pro Pro Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys 85 90 95

Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Val Leu Gly Gly Ala
100 105 110

Gly	Gln	Phe	Pro	Leu	Gly	Gly	Val	Ala	Ala	Arg	Pro	Gly	Phe	Gly	Leu
		115					120					125			

Ser Pro Ile Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Cys Leu Gly Lys Ala Cys Gly Arg 130 135 140

Lys Arg Lys 145

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 600 base pairs

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

(C) STRANDEDNESS: double

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA (genomic)
- (iii) HYPOTHETICAL: YES
- (iv) ANTI-SENSE: NO

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

TCCGCCATGG GAGCTCTGGT AGGCCTGGGC GTACCGGGCC TGGGTGTTGG TGCAGGCGTT 60 CCGGGTTTCG GTGCTGGCGC GGACGAAGGT GTACGTCGTT CCCTGTCTCC AGAACTGCGT 120 GAAGGTGACC CGTCCTCTTC CCAGCACCTG CCGTCTACCC CGTCCTCTCC ACGTGTTCCG 180 GGCGCGCTGG CTGCTGCGAA AGCGGCGAAA TACGGTGCAG CGGTTCCGGG TGTACTGGGC 240 GGTCTGGGTG CTCTGGGCGG TGTTGGTATC CCGGGCGGTG TTGTAGGTGC AGGCCCAGCT 300 GCAGCTGCTG CTGCGGCAAA GGCAGCGGCG AAAGCAGCTC AGTTCGGTCT GGTTGGTGCA 360 GCAGGTCTGG GCGGTCTGGG TGTTGGCGGT CTGGGTGTAC CGGGCGTTGG TGGTCTGGGT 420 GGCATCCCGC CGGCGGCGC AGCTAAAGCG GCTAAATACG GTGCAGCAGG TCTGGGTGGC 480 GTTCTGGTG GTGCTGGTCA GTTCCCACTG GGCGGTGTAG CGGCACGTCC GGGTTTCGGT 540

CTGTCCCCGA	TCTTCCCAGG	CGGTGCATGC	CTGGGTAAAG	CTTGCGGCCG	TAAACGTAAA

- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 200 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 - (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
 - (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

Ser Ala Met Gly Ala Leu Val Gly Leu Gly Val Pro Gly Leu Gly Val

1 5 10 15

Gly Ala Gly Val Pro Gly Phe Gly Ala Gly Ala Asp Glu Gly Val Arg
20 25 30

Arg Ser Leu Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Glu Gly Asp Pro Ser Ser Ser Gln 35 40 45

His Leu Pro Ser Thr Pro Ser Ser Pro Arg Val Pro Gly Ala Leu Ala 50 55 60

Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Val Pro Gly Val Leu Gly 65 70 75 80

Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Gly Gly Val Gly Ile Pro Gly Gly Val Val Gly 85 90 95

Ala Gly Pro Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala
100 105 110

Ala Gln Phe Gly Leu Val Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Leu Gly Val 115 120 125

Gly Gly Leu Gly Val Pro Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Ile Pro Pro 130 135 140

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Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly
145 150 155 160

Val Leu Gly Gly Ala Gly Gln Phe Pro Leu Gly Gly Val Ala Ala Arg 165 170 175

Pro Gly Phe Gly Leu Ser Pro Ile Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Cys Leu Gly 180 185 190

Lys Ala Cys Gly Arg Lys Arg Lys 195 200

- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 60 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 - (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
 - (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

Gly Ile Pro Pro Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala 1 5 10 15

Gly Leu Gly Gly Val Leu Gly Gly Ala Gly Gln Phe Pro Leu Gly Gly
20 25 30

Val Ala Ala Arg Pro Gly Phe Gly Leu Ser Pro Ile Phe Pro Gly Gly
35 40 45

Ala Cys Leu Gly Lys Ala Cys Gly Arg Lys Arg Lys 50 55 60

- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 47 amino acids

- (B) TYPE: amino acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS:
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Val Leu Gly Gly Ala Gly Gln Phe Pro 1 5 10 15

Leu Gly Gly Val Ala Ala Arg Pro Gly Phe Gly Leu Ser Pro Ile Phe 20 25 30

Pro Gly Gly Ala Cys Leu Gly Lys Ala Cys Gly Arg Lys Arg Lys 35 40 45

- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 34 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 - (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
 - (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

Gly Ala Asp Glu Gly Val Arg Arg Ser Leu Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Glu 1 5 10 15

Gly Asp Pro Ser Ser Ser Gln His Leu Pro Ser Thr Pro Ser Ser Pro
20 25 30

Arg Val

- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 34 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid

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- (C) STRANDEDNESS:
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

Gly Ala Asp Glu Gly Val Arg Arg Ser Leu Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Glu

1 5 10 15

Gly Asp Pro Ser Ser Ser Gln His Leu Pro Ser Thr Pro Ser Ser Pro 20 25 30

Arg Phe

- (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:14:
 - (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 216 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
 - (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
 - (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:14:

Ala Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Gly Ile Pro Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Val 1 5 10 15

Gly Val Pro Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Ala Gly Val Pro Gly Leu Gly Val
20 25 30

Gly Ala Gly Val Pro Gly Phe Gly Ala Gly Ala Asp Glu Gly Val Arg 35 40 45

Arg Ser Leu Ser Pro Glu Leu Arg Glu Gly Asp Pro Ser Ser Gln 50 55 60

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His Leu Pro Ser Thr Pro Ser Ser Pro Arg Val Pro Gly Ala Leu Ala 65 70 75 80

Ala Ala Lys Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Val Pro Gly Val Leu Gly 85 90 95

Gly Leu Gly Ala Leu Gly Gly Val Gly Ile Pro Gly Gly Val Val Gly
100 105 110

Ala Gly Pro Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala
115 120 125

Ala Gln Phe Gly Leu Val Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly Leu Gly Val 130 135 140

Gly Gly Leu Gly Val Pro Gly Val Gly Gly Leu Gly Gly Ile Pro Pro 145 150 155 160

Ala Ala Ala Ala Lys Ala Ala Lys Tyr Gly Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Gly
165 170 175

Val Leu Gly Gly Ala Gly Gln Phe Pro Leu Gly Gly Val Ala Ala Arg 180 185 190

Pro Gly Phe Gly Leu Ser Pro Ile Phe Pro Gly Gly Ala Cys Leu Gly
195 200 205

Lys Ala Cys Gly Arg Lys Arg Lys 210 215

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 183 amino acids
 - (B) TYPE: amino acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS:
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein
- (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

Ala Ala Ala Gly Leu Gly Ala Gly Ile Pro Gly Leu Gly Val Gly Val

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Gly	Val	Pro	Gly 20	Leu	Gly	Val	Gly	Ala 25	Gly	Val	Pro	Gly	Leu 30	Gly	V al
Gly	Ala	Gly 35	Val	Pro	Gly	Phe	Gly 40	Ala	Val	Pro	Gly	Ala 45	Leu	Ala	Ala
Ala	Lys 50	Ala	Ala	Lys	Tyr	Gly 55	Ala	Ala	Val	Pro	Gly 60	Val	Leu	Gly	Gly
Leu 65	Gly	Ala	Leu	Gly	Gly 70	Val	Gly	Ile	Pro	Gly 75	Gly	Val	Val	Gly	Ala 80
Gly	Pro	Ala	Ala	Ala 85	Ala	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys 90	Ala	Ala	Ala	Lys	Ala 95	Ala
Gln	Phe	Gly	Leu 100	Val	Gly	Ala	Ala	Gly 105	Leu	Gly	Gly	Leu	Gly 110	Val	Gly
Gly	Leu	Gly 115	Val	Pro	Gly	Val	Gly 120	Gly	Leu	Gly	Gly	Ile 125	Pro	Pro	Ala
Ala	Ala 130	Ala	Lys	Ala	Ala	Lys 135	Tyr	Gly	Ala	Ala	Gly 140		Gly	Gly	Val
Leu 145	Gly	Gly	Ala	Gly	Gln 150	Phe	Pro	Leu	Gly	Gly 155	Val	Ala	Ala	Arg	Pro 160
Gly	Phe	Gly	Leu	Ser 165	Pro	Ile	Phe	Pro	Gly 170	Gly	Ala	Cys	Leu	Gly 175	Lys
Ala	Cys	Gly	Arg	Lys	Arg	Lys									

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THE CLAIMS:

- 1. A human tropoelastin derivative or an amino acid sequence variant thereof, wherein the derivative or variant has elastin-like properties.
- 2. A human tropoelastin derivative or an amino acid sequence variant thereof, wherein the derivative or variant has macro-molecular binding properties.

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- 3. A derivative or variant thereof according to claim 2 wherein the macro-molecular binding properties include the ability to bind glycosyaminoglycans.
- 4. A human tropoelastin derivative or an amino acid sequence variant thereof, wherein the derivative or variant has elastin-like properties and macro-molecular binding properties.
- 5. A polynucleotide encoding a derivative or variant thereof of any one of claims 1 to 4.
 - 6. A tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELômodified, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELômodified.
 - 7. A tropoelastin derivative according to claim 6 comprising SEQ ID NO: 5.

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8. A polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELδmodified or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELδmodified.

- 9. A polynucleotide according to claim 8 comprising SEQ ID NO: 4.
- 10. A synthetic polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELδ26A or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELδ26A.
- 10 11. A synthetic polynucleotide according to claim
 10, the polynucleotide comprising the sequence of from
 nucleotide position 1 to 1676 contiguous with the sequence
 of from nucleotide position 1775 to 2210 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 15 12. An amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL δ 26A.
 - 13. An amino acid sequence variant according to claim 12 comprising SEQ ID NO:3.
 - 14. A tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma.
 - 15. A tropoelastin derivative according to claim 14 comprising SEQ ID NO:9.
- 16. A polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin
 30 derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of the derivative SHELgamma, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma.
- 17. A polynucleotide sequence according to claim 16 comprising SEO ID NO:8.

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18. A tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma excluding exon 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHELgamma excluding exon 26A.

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- 19. A tropoelastin derivative according to claim 18 comprising SEQ ID NO:7.
- 20. A polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin

 derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid
 sequence of SHELgamma excluding exon 26A or an amino acid
 sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino
 acid sequence of SHELgamma excluding exon 26A.
- 15 21. A polynucleotide sequence according to claim 20 comprising SEQ ID NO: 6.
 - 22. A tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL31-36, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL31-36.
 - 23. A tropoelastin derivative according to claim 22 comprising SEQ ID NO: 10.

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- 24. A polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL31-36 or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL31-36.
- 25. A polynucleotide according to claim 24, the polynucleotide comprising the sequence of from nucleotide position 2022 to 2210 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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26. A tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL32-36, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid

sequence of SHEL32-36.

27. A tropoelastin derivative according to claim 26 comprising SEO ID NO: 11.

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- 28. A polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL32-36 or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL32-36.
- 29. A polynucleotide according to claim 28, the polynucleotide comprising the sequence of from nucleotide position 2061 to 2210 of SEQ ID NO: 1.

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30. A tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A.

- 31. A tropoelastin derivative according to claim 30 comprising SEQ ID NO: 12 or SEQ ID NO: 13.
- 32. A polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin
 25 derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid
 sequence of peptide 26A or an amino acid sequence variant
 of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of
 peptide 26A.
- 33. A polynucleotide according to claim 32, the polynucleotide comprising the sequence of from nucleotide position 1677 to 1774 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 34. A tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-36, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-26.

- 35. A tropoelastin derivative according to claim 34 comprising SEQ ID NO: 14.
- 36. A polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin

 5 derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid
 sequence of SHEL26-36 or an amino acid sequence variant of
 the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of
 SHEL26-36.
- 37. A polynucleotide according to claim 36, the polynucleotide comprising the sequence of from nucleotide position 1554 to 2210 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 38. A tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-26 excluding exon 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-26 excluding exon 26A.
- 39. A tropoelastin derivative according to claim 38 comprising SEQ ID NO: 15.
 - 40. A polynucleotide encoding a tropoelastin derivative, the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of SHEL26-26 excluding exon 26A or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative of SHEL26-26 excluding exon 26A.
- 41. A polynucleotide according to claim 40, the polynucleotide comprising the sequence of from nucleotide position 1554 to 1676 contiguous with the sequence of from nucleotide position 1776 to 2210 of SEQ ID NO: 1.
- 42. A vector comprising a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40 or 41, or a synthetic polynucleotide according to claim 10 or 11.
 - 43. The vector according to claim 42 wherein the

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polynucleotide or synthetic polynucleotide is operatively linked to a promoter or enhancer regulatory sequence.

- 44. The vector according to claim 42 or 43 wherein the polynucleotide or synthetic polynucleotide is operatively linked to a nucleotide sequence, the nucleotide sequence encoding a further amino acid sequence.
- 10 45. A cell containing a vector according to any one of claims 42 to 44.
- 46. A method for producing a derivative of tropoelastin or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a vector according to any one of claims 42 to 44;
 - (b) introducing the vector into a cell:
 - (c) maintaining the cell in conditions suitable for expression of the vector; and
 - (d) isolating the tropoelastin derivative or variant.
- 47. A tropoelastin derivative or variant produced by the method of claim 46.
 - 48. A transgenic non-human animal containing a vector according to any one of claims 42 to 44, or a polynucleotide according to any one of claims 5, 8, 9, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40 or 41, or a synthetic polynucleotide according to claim 10 or 11.
- 49. A tropoelastin derivative or variant of the derivative produced by a transgenic animal according to claim 48
 - 50. method for producing a tropoelastin derivative or a variant of the derivative according to any one of

- 56 -

claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12-15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38 or 39, the method comprising producing the tropoelastin derivative or variant by solid-phase peptide synthesis.

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- 51. A tropoelastin derivative or variant produced by the method of claim 50.
- 52. A formulation comprising at least one
 tropoelastin derivative or variant of the derivative
 according to any one of 1-4, 6, 7, 12-15, 18, 19, 22, 23,
 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 47 or 49, together with a
 pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 53. An expression product comprising a tropoelastin derivative or variant of the derivative according to any one of claims 1-4, 6, 7, 12-15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 47 or 49, and a further amino acid sequence.

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- 54. An expression product according to claim 53 wherein the tropoelastin derivative comprises the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A.
- 55. A polynucleotide encoding an expression product according to claims 53 or 54.
- 30 56. A vector comprising the polynucleotide according to claim 55.
 - 57. A cell containing a vector according to claim 56.

- 58. A method for producing an expression product according to claim 52 or 54, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a vector according to claim 56;

- 57 -

- (b) introducing the vector into a cell;
- (c) maintaining the cell in conditions suitable for expression of the vector; and
- (d) isolating the expression product.

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- 59. An expression product produced by the method of claim 58.
- 60. An transgenic non-human animal containing a vector according to claim 56 or a polynucleotide according to claim 55.
 - 61. An expression product produced by a transgenic animal according to claim 60.

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62. A formulation comprising at least one expression product according to any of claims 53, 54, 59 or 61, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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- 63. A hybrid molecule comprising a biological polymer wherein the polymer is linked to a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising peptide 26A.
- 64. A hybrid molecule according to claim 63 wherein the biological polymer is a protein.
- 65. A hybrid molecule according to claim 64 wherein in the protein is selected from the group consisting of cytokines, growth factors and antibodies.
 - 66. A hybrid molecule according to claim 63 wherein the biological polymer is selected from the group consisting of lipids, sugars and nucleic acids.
 - 67. A polynucleotide sequence encoding a hybrid molecule according to claim 64.

- 68. A vector comprising a polynucleotide sequence according to claim 67.
- 5 69. A cell containing a vector according to claim 68.
 - 70. A method for producing a hybrid molecule according to claim 64, the method comprising:
 - (a) providing a vector according to claim 68;
 - (b) introducing the vector into a cell;
 - (c) maintaining the cell in conditions suitable for expression of the vector; and
 - (d) isolating the hybrid molecule.

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- 71. A hybrid molecule produced by the method of claim 70.
- 72. A transgenic non-human animal containing a
 vector according to claim 68 or a polynucleotide according
 to claim 67.
 - 73. A hybrid molecule produced by a transgenic animal according to claim 72.

- 74. A hybrid molecule comprising a synthetic polymer linked to peptide 26A or a variant of peptide 26A.
- 75. A formulation comprising at least one hybrid 30 molecule according to any of claims 63-65, 71, 73 and 74, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.
- 76. A cross linked complex, the complex comprising at least one of the following:
 - (i) at least one derivative or variant of the derivative according to any of 1-4, 6, 7, 12-15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 47

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or 49;

- (ii) at least expression product according to any of claims 53, 54, 58 or 61; and
- (iii) at least one hybrid molecule according to any of claims 63-65, 71, 73 or 74.
- 77. An implant, the implant comprising at least one of the following:
- (i) at least one derivative or variant of the derivative according to any of 1-4, 6, 7, 12-15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 47 or 49;
 - (ii) at least expression product according to any of claims 53, 54, 58 or 61; and
 - (iii) at least one hybrid molecule according to any of claims 63-65, 71, 73 or 74.
- 78. A method of imparting glycosaminoglycan binding activity to a biological polymer comprising the step of linking a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A with the biological polymer.
- 79. A method of deleting glycosaminoglycan binding activity from a biological polymer comprising the step of deleting a tropoelastin derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A, or an amino acid sequence variant of the derivative comprising the amino acid sequence of peptide 26A from the biological polymer.
 - 80. The method of claim 66 or 67 wherein the biological polymer is a protein.
- 35 81. A formulation comprising a tropoelastin derivative or variant of the derivative and a synthetic or biological polymer.

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Figure 1(1)

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301 PGFGPGVVGVPGAGVPGAGIPVVPGAGIPGAAVPGVVSPEAAKA 350
351 AAKAAKYGARPGVGVGGIPTYGVGAGGFPGFGVGVGGIPGVAGVPSVGGV 400
401 PGVGGVPGVGISPERORARAKARKYGVGTPARARAKARAKAROFGLVPG 450
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701 LGGVAARPGPGLEPIFPGGACLGKACGRKPK 731

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535	lyAlaVaiProGlyVaiLeuGlyGlyLeuGlyAlaLeuGlyGlyValGly 550
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Figure 3(3)

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178 GGCGCAGTTGTTCCGCAGCCGGGTGCAGGTGTAAAACCGGGCAAAGTTCC 227
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Figure 4(3)

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Figure 5(1)

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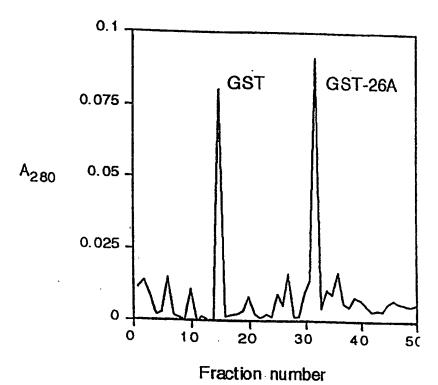


Fig. 6(a)

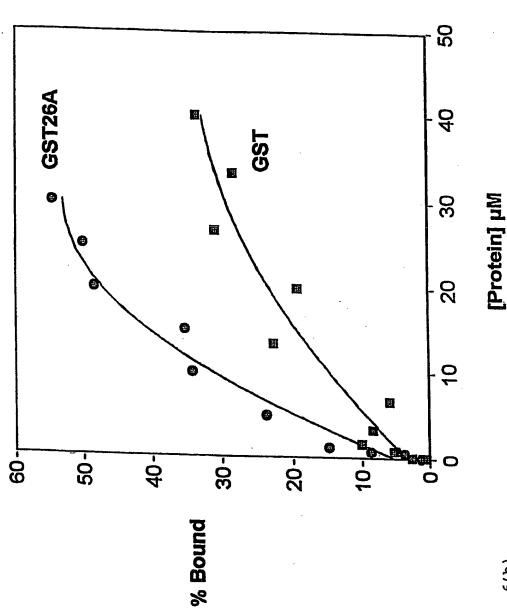


Fig. 6(b)

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1190	CTCTGGGCGGTGTTGGTATCCCGGGCGGTGTTGTAGGTGCAGGCCCAGCT	1247
95		
00	laLeuGlyGlyValGlyIleProGlyGlyValValGlyAlaGlyProAla	100

Figure 8(1)

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1248	GCAGCTGCTGCGGCAAAGGCAGCGGCGAAAGCAGCTCAGTTCGGTCT	1297
101	AlaAlaAlaAlaAlaAlaAlaAlaAlaAlaAlaGlnPheGlyLe	117
	•	
1298	GGTTGGTGCAGCAGGTCTGGGCGGTCTGGGTGTAC	1347
118	uValGlyAlaAlaGlyLeuGlyGlyLeuGlyValGlyGlyLeuGlyValP	134
	•	
1348	CGGCCGTGGTCTGGGTGGCATCCCGCCGGCGGCGCAGCTAAAGCG	1397
135	roGlyValGlyGlyLeuGlyGlyfleProProAlaAlaAlaAlaLysAla	150
1,398	GCTAAATACGGTGCAGCAGGTCTGGGTGGCGTGCTGGTCA	1447
151	AlaLysTyrGlyAlaAlaGlyLeuGlyGlyValLeuGlyGlyAlaGlyGl	167
1448	GTTCCCACTGGGCGTGTAGCGGCACGTCCGGGTTTCGGTCTGTCCCCGA	1497
168	nPheProLeuGlyGlyValAlaAlaArgProGlyPheGlyLeuSerProI	184
	• • • •	
1498	TCTTCCCAGGCGTGCATGCCTGGGTAAAGCTTGCGGCCGTAAACGTAAA	1547
185	lePheProGlyGlyAlaCysLeuGlyLysAlaCysGlyArgLysArgLys	200

Figure 8(2)

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/AU 98/00564

A.	CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER					
Int Cl ⁶ :	C07K 14/435, C07H 21/04, A61K 38/17, C12N 15	5/12, C12P 21/02				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC						
В.	FIELDS SEARCHED					
Minimum docu	mentation searched (classification system followed by cl	assification symbols)				
IPC C07K 14/435, C07H 21/04, A61K 38/17, C12N 15/12, C12P 21/02						
Documentation -	searched other than minimum documentation to the ext	ent that such documents are included in t	he fields searched			
Electronic data ANGIS	base consulted during the international search (name of	data base and, where practicable, search	terms used)			
С.	DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where app	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.			
x	Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, Volume 84, issued A "Alternative splicing of human elastin in RNA in cloned genomic and complementary DNA", page whole document  Connective Tissue Research, Vol. 16, issued 198	ndicated by sequence analysis of 25 2680 to 5684  7, Z. Indik et al,	1-47, 50-65			
х	"Structure of the 3' region of the human elastin Repetitive sequences and few coding sequences", whole document		1-47, 50-65			
x	Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C	See patent family an	nex			
** Special categories of cited documents:  "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date  "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  "P" document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art document member of the same patent family						
	Date of the actual completion of the international search  16 October 1998  Date of mailing of the international search report  22 OCT 1998					
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# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

mernational application No.

PCT/AU 98/00564

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lategory*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
	Cell, Vol. 86, issued July 12 1996, J.M. Frangiskakis et al,	<del> </del>
	"LIM-kinase 1 Hemizygosity Implicated in Impaired Visuospatial Constructive Cognition",	
	pages 59 to 69	1
X	whole document	1-13, 18-29 42-47, 50-6
	Laboratory Investigation, Vol. 58, No. 3, issued 1988, M.J. Fazio et al.	ł
	"Isolation and Characterization of Human Elastin cDNAs, and Age-Associated Variation in	
	Elastin Gene Expression in Cultured Skin Fibroblasts*, pages 270 to 277	1
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		38-47,50-6
	The Journal of Investigative Dermatology, Vol. 91, No. 5, issued November 1988, M.J. Fazio et al. "Cloning of Full-length Elastin cDNAs from a Human Skin Fibroblast Recombinant cDNA Library: Further Elucidation of Alternative Splicing Utilizing Exon-specific Oligonucleotides, pages 458 to 464	
X	whole document	1-13, 18-29
Λ		42-47, 50-6
	Genomics, Vol. 36, issued 1996, L.R. Osborne et al.	
	"Identification of Genes from a 500 kb Region at 7q11.23. That is commonly deleted in	
	Williams Syndrome Patients", pages 328 to 336.	ļ
Χ.	whole document	1-5, 18-29, 4
,		47, 50-62
x	The Journal of Biological Chemistry, Vol. 264, issued May 25 1989, M.M Bashir et al, "Characterization of the Complete Human Elastin Gene", pages 8887 to 8891 whole document	1-5, 10-13
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